Dazzling Minds
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Chapter Two

"I might not be able to resist..."
"taking you away from this place."

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HEHEHE. I GOT ON THE TRAIN!
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?
STUPID! YOU'RE SO STUPID!
"Because I like Nao."
"My dad has been transferred. So I'm going to Tokyo."
"I can't go with you, Sayo."
"Sayo cries easily and makes people worried. How could I ask you to be in a long distance relationship?"
BECAUSE
THIS KIND OF THING...
I CAN'T ACCEPT IT.

I...
I THINK A LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP IS FINE.
IT'S ALRIGHT.
I WILL WORK HARD, NAO.
. DIDN'T I SAY THAT IT WON'T WORK?
JUST GO HOME.
GET OFF AT THE NEXT STATION.

"I might not be able to resist taking you away from this place."
NAO...
WHY ...?
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THOSE WORDS?
DOESN'T HE LIKE ME...?
I DON'T WANT TO.
I...
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU.

You aren't planning to follow me to my new home are you?
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT,
IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING
TH-
THEN
JUST FOR TODAY? THEN
JUST FOR TO-DAY!
GO OUT WITH ME
I WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY LIKE A PAIR OF LOVERS WOULD.
APPROACH-ING THE NEXT STATION.
PASSENGERS WHO ARE GET-TING OFF
THEN
I WILL GIVE UP.

IT-
IT'S FINE
THAT DOESN'T MATTER
YOU SAID "TODAY"...
BUT THERE ARE ONLY A FEW MORE HOURS LEFT IN THE DAY
AND YOU WILL GO HOME AFTER?
YEAH...
...YEAH...
AFTER TODAY IS OVER, YOU'LL GIVE UP?
THE DOORS
ARE CLOSING...

...FINE.
JUST FOR TODAY,
THE TWO OF US.
ARE GOING ON OUR FIRST AND LAST DATE AS LOVERS.
Just for today!
GREAT!
YOU'LL KEEP YOUR PROMISE, RIGHT?!
And you'll need to call your parents to tell them you'll be home late!

GIRL-FRIEND..?
MY "GIRL-FRIEND."
...SO?
IS THERE ANYWHERE YOU WANT TO GO?
AHA, IS THAT SO...
SO, THERE'S NO PLAN?
WHACK!
WHACK!
Kekeke!
Ahaha!
As long as I'm with you, anywhere is fine!! I'm your "girlfriend" after all!!
Geez!
FLOATS
OKAY!
LEAVE IT UP TO YOUR "BOYFRIEND" TO DECIDE!
THEN,

A DATE
BETWEEN NAO AND I...
IT SEEMS LIKE I'M DREAMING IT ALL
ARRIVING AT HIGASHINO MORI...
Shall we hold hands?
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK
WAH,
THIS MIGHT BE THE FIRST TIME I'M GETTING OFF THE TRAIN AT THIS STOP
SAYO,
THIS WAY.
Wah!
THIS PLACE IS A POPULAR TOURIST ATTRACTION, APPARENTLY
THAT'S WHAT THE FLYER SAID
It's so cute!

Okay?!
Let's buy couple outfits!
No thank you!
STAR
This cafe is decorated entirely with stars!
It's so bright, I think I might go blind...
MENU
DAMN.
THIS DATING SITE IS TOO MUCH FOR A HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE.
We went overboard
I HAD SO MUCH FUN!
THAT'S GREAT.

I'M SO HAPPY
REALLY
AH,
Okay, hurry.
I NEED TO GO TO THE WASH-ROOM
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
UM,
EXCUSE ME!
...HM?
SAYO'S TAKING FOREVER.
Ha Ha Ha

WE SHOULD GO.
SAYO.
EH...!
Nao...?
S-
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG.
MMM.
?
?
?
.....

TODAY IS...
MY FIRST DATE... WITH THE PERSON I'VE SECRETLY BEEN IN LOVE WITH FOR A LONG TIME
THAT PERSON ASKED FOR DIRECTIONS
AND WE ENDED UP CHATTING FOR A BIT
OH,
ABOUT WHAT?
...BUT,
THIS IS OUR FIRST
AND ALSO OUR LAST DATE..

Even though I'm happy,
so happy that warmth is spreading through my chest...
It's also
a little painful
IF WE KEEP WALKING AT YOUR PACE,
IT WILL GET DARK BEFORE WE GET BACK
EH...?

Because...
this really is the first and last time...
HEY, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
LOOK... WE'RE HERE
EH..
WOW!

THE FLYER SAID THIS IS A GOOD PLACE FOR STAR-GAZING.
EH?!
THERE'S GOING TO BE A METEOR SHOWER TONIGHT.
AND APPARENTLY,
A METEOR SHOWER
REALLY DOES APPEAR
IF...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
Haha!
It feels really like I'm on a date!
BUT I'M NOT SURE IF IT'LL REALLY APPEAR OR NOT.
Let's wait and see.

SAYO...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO WISH FOR?
For the meteor shower!
CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW MANY WISHES THEY HAVE TO GRANT TODAY ALONE?
BUT YOU KNOW, STARS ARE QUITE PITIFUL
...IT'S A SECRET.
That's no fun!
AWW, COME ON!
I WANT TO MAKE A LOT OF WISHES.
BECAUSE .....
AND,
I HOPE THAT ALL OF THEM WILL COME TRUE.

ACTUALLY,
I...
UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY
YOU'RE TOO GREEDY.
I'M JUST KIDDING...
AH...

IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
YEAH...
NAO...

We're lovers today, right ....?
AT LEAST FOR TODAY ....
TODAY...
WE'RE...

The stars that fall across the sky
can disappear in the blink of an eye...
I...
SHOULD GO NOW.
HM...
SORRY.
LET'S...
GO BACK TO THE STATION.

...BYE.
THIS TIME WE'RE REALLY PARTING HERE.
.....
I CAN'T SEND YOU BACK.
BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME.
...But then...
I won't be able to contact you again...
Can I call you once in a while?
NO.
Then email
NO.
Then I'll write you...
I SAID NO.

THAT'S THE MEANING OF GIVING UP...
WE MADE AN AGREEMENT YOU SAID YOU WOULD GIVE UP WHEN TODAY COMES TO AN END
.....
BECAUSE IT'S YOU, SAYO,
REALLY BELIEVED THAT THE METEOR SHOWER WOULD GRANT YOUR WISHES.
PERHAPS... YOU...
MAYBE YOU WISHED THAT MY TRANSFER WOULD TURN OUT TO BE FAKE,
OR MAYBE YOU WISHED THAT I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO TOKYO
BUT NONE OF THOSE WISHES WILL COME TRUE.

GOODBYE...
THE TRAIN IS PULLING UP IN LINE TWO. PASSENGERS, PLEASE—
THE CARS' DOORS
ARE CLOSING—
WELL, I REALLY HAVE TO GO NOW
No matter what, he didn't bring up the idea of long distance relationships again
That was Nao's reply
Haha. DON'T JUMP ON THE TRAIN AGAIN LIKE LAST TIME

doors close
THE TRAIN
SLOWLY TAKES NAO AWAY
Wait...
AND LEAVES ME BEHIND.
No,
I don't want this...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

HE...
DON'T LEAVE, NAO!
DON'T GO!
REALLY LEFT. JUST LIKE THAT.

rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
On the train in this tiny little town,
I'm all alone.
That's why
I could indulge my tears.

But...
although we are separated
I will always love Nao.
Truth is, I didn't make a single wish
Because I knew that
no matter what I requested, my wishes would never come true.
"I want to make lots of wishes."
"Because it's Sayo,
"you probably thought the shooting stars would grant all your wishes."
IN THE END
NAO STILL TREATED ME LIKE A CHILD

Glancing out the window,
just like a shooting star that
was left behind from its meteor shower,
I...
silently took an oath.
To Be Continued

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